

A RESOLUTION to honor Lavetta Glover Ellis upon her receipt of
the Miliken Foundation National Educator
Award.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause in their deliberations to honor those exemplary educators who have contributed significantly to the growth and development of our most precious resource: our children; and

WHEREAS, Lavetta Glover Ellis, a teacher at John F. Kennedy Middle School in Atlanta, Georgia, is most assuredly one such dedicated educator; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ellis has recently been selected as the recipient of the Miliken Foundation National Educator Award, an honor most befitting this distinguished lady and her bountiful career of purpose and commitment; and

WHEREAS, the Miliken Foundation National Educator Award is presented as a tangible expression of the importance of education in preserving our nation, a precept that Mrs. Ellis brings to life in her daily teaching; and

WHEREAS, fondly known as “Mrs. E.” and “Mama E.”, Mrs. Ellis has been described by her legion of appreciative students as a “lifesaver” and as “the greatest person and teacher in the world”; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ellis’ tremendous impact as an educator was foretold; the eleventh of twelve siblings, she was, as she puts it, “born in a classroom atmosphere”; and

WHEREAS, the Ellis family household featured firm rules, overcrowding and a teacher (their mother) who expected and demanded that the Ellis children demonstrate sound values, self-esteem, hard work and a desire to succeed; her love produced twelve excellent students; and

WHEREAS, Lavetta Ellis is producing a new generation of excellent students through her educational theory of unconditional love; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ellis believes that every child learns better with love, and that with professional intervention even the most disadvantaged child can learn to be an important part of the school family; and

WHEREAS, love, and often “tough love”, is the central theme of many of the educational programs Mrs. Ellis has created; “Teaching Adolescents How to Love” has proven to be very successful in effecting changes in the attitudes of students, and has evidenced decreased absenteeism, increased morale and greater enthusiasm toward completing assignments and participation; and

WHEREAS, “The Love Connection”, her mentoring program, pairs physical education majors with middle school students, and “Love In Spite Of” is Mrs. Ellis’ conflict resolution workshop; and

WHEREAS, Lavetta Ellis takes great pride in refining her students’ minds, purifying their mouths and thoughts, and polishing their social graces; she simply insists that in all situations students conduct themselves as ladies and gentlemen; and

WHEREAS, the building of character, anti-drug education, avoiding teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS awareness and numerous other goals are accomplished through the Winners Club, the PRIDE Club, the VIP Club and cultural trips; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ellis also sponsors the African Dance Troupe in order to instill a sense of pride and perfection in her students; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Ellis’ huge menu of extra-curricular activities is a continuation of the ideals and values she reinforces daily in class; and

WHEREAS, The Reverend Lavetta Ellis also serves with great faith, acumen and industry as Youth Minister at the Hillside International Truth Center, where she teaches the “Youth of Truth” program; and

WHEREAS, Lavetta Glover Ellis is a 1957 graduate of Melrose High School and a graduate of Grambling University; this remarkable lady formerly served as a teacher at LeMoyne Owen College; and

WHEREAS, Lavetta Glover Ellis represents with honor and grace the true spirit of Tennessee, and her long and productive career as a teacher can only be categorized as both meritorious and fulfilling; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Lavetta Glover Ellis upon her much deserved receipt of the Miliken Foundation National Educator Award, salute her worthy career and devotion to her students, and wish her much continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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